(b) if so, the profit being allowed on such imported formulations; and

(c) how NPPA monitor the price of imported formulations being sold at exorbitant prices in the market?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) Prices of Scheduled imported formulations are fixed as per para 7 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Para 7 provides that the landed cost shall form the basis for fixing its price alongwith such margin to cover selling and distribution expenses inlcuding interest and importer's profit which shall not exceed fifty percent of the landed cost. Importers of non-Scheduled formulations can fix their price on their own as per cost of import and prevailing market competition etc. NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations (including imported formulations) on the basis of information available to it from various sources.

**Performance of Fertilizer Plants in Public Sector**

1096. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fertilizer Plants in the Public, Private and Co-operative Sectors separately operating at present;

(b) the capacity utilisation of these plants;

(c) the reasons for poor performance of the Public Sector Plants; and

(d) the step taken to improve the operation of the Public Sector Fertilizer Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Number of fertilizer plants operating in the public, private and co-operative sector, their annual installed capacity and capacity utilisation (in percentage) during April-Oct. 2002 is given as under:—

| Sector | Number of plants | Annual Installed capacity (lakh tonnes) | | %age capacity utilisation | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Nitrogen | Phosphate | Nitrogen | Phosphate |
| Public | 23 | 35.95 | 4.75 | 78.4 | 74.1 |
| Co-operative | 7 | 27.72 | 7.25 | 101.2 | 129.9 |
| Private | 29 | 57.19 | 41.60 | 86.5 | 64.4 |
| TOTAL | 59 | 120.86 | 53.60 | 87.5 | 74.1 |

**(c) Major reasons for poor performance of public sector plants during April-Oct, 2002.**

1. Shortage of natural gas in all the gas based fertilizer plants.

2. Cochin—I unit of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Trombay—V unit of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited, Neyveli unit of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and Sindri unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India remained under shutdown during the entire period.

3. Equipment breakdown/problems in Bhatinda & Panipat unit of National Fertilizer Limited.

4. Equipment problems alongwith ongoing Revamp activities in Namrup-III unit of Brahmaputra Vallery Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL).

5. Low production of NPK complexes due to high inventory in all the complex manufacturing plants.

**(d) Step taken to improve the operations of the public sector fertilizer plants.**

Fertilizer industry is currently facing problems for matching the production with installed capacity mainly on two accounts. First, limitation in availability of natural gas specially for gas based urea plants such as RCF—Thal and KRIBHCO-Hazira plants and second, frequent shut down/break down because of critical equipments related problems in old-vintage plants. Department of Fertilizer is pursuing with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to make available adequate and qualitative gas to fertilizer plants. Besides, PSUs have been advised to examine the possibility of sourcing alternate source of LNG as feedstock and to take steps for long term tie-up with prospective suppliers to overcome constraints in the domestic availability of gas. Many urea units including those of PSUs have also installed dual fuel facility of naphtha for supplementing alternate feed. Capital additions are being recognized under Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme (RPS) to as to encorage these units to undertake investment for improving their efficiency by expansion/retrofitting/revamping of existing plants to overcome equipment breakdown etc.

Besides, the following steps are being taken to improve the operational performance of PSUs.

(1) The revamp of the Namrup units of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFC) at a revised cost of Rs. 509.40 crore, is under implementation and likely to be completed in May 2003. The Namrup units have been separated into a new entity under the name of "Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited" w.e.f. 1.4.2002.

(2) Government of India have granted the financial reliefs to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travanacore Ltd. (FACT) and Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL) in March, 2002 and July, 2002 respectively to improve their financial viability.

(3) Plan assistance is being extended to those PSUs, who are not able to generate internal resources for undertaking capital investments, technology upgradation, renewals and replacement etc.

(4) Various cost cutting measures have been taken by PSUs to bring about fiscal discipline to generate internal resources for better and efficient operations of their plants.

(5) Besides, manpower rationalisation including roll back of retirement age from 60 years to 58 years has been undertaken by the PSUs.

**Extradition of UCL Chief**

1097. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to initiate extradition proceedings against the former Union Carbide Chief, Waren Anderson, in connection with the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy:

(b) if so, the progress made, so far, in the matter; and

(c) by when the extradition proceedings are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Government has examined the request for extradition of Mr. Warren Anderson, former Union Carbide Chief in consultation with concerned authorities. The Investigation Agency has been asked to strengthen the evidentiary links connecting Mr. Anderson to the Bhopal Gas Leakage Tragedy so that the extradition request could be